

MAY 04 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 101-110. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-74. (Cancelled)

75. (Previously Presented) A timepiece configured to be worn on a wrist of a wearer, the timepiece comprising:

- a case that includes a timing element; and

- a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band having a first link and an adjacent second link, the first link being joined to the second link, and the first link including:

- a first extension element defining a connecting channel and a separate joining channel, each of the connecting channel and the joining channel extending entirely through the first extension element, and the first extension element having a outward-facing surface and an opposite wrist-facing surface, the wrist-facing surface being positioned to face the wrist,

- a first cover member positioned adjacent the outward-facing surface of the first extension element, the first cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the connecting channel, and the first cover member having a pair of side portions that extend toward the wrist-facing surface of the first extension element, the side portions defining apertures aligned with the connecting channel and positioned adjacent ends of the connecting channel,

- a connecting springbar extending through the first connecting channel and interfacing with the apertures to connect the first extension element to the first cover member, and

- a joining springbar extending through the joining channel to join the first link to the second link,

wherein the second link is substantially identical to the first link and has a second extension element and a second cover member, the second cover member extending over a portion of the

first extension element that has the joining channel, the joining springbar securing the first extension element to the second cover member to join the first link to the second link.

76. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 75, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material.

77. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 76, wherein the first cover member extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

78. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 77, the connecting springbar extends through a connector area of the case and joins the band to the case, and the connecting springbar includes a pair of end portions that extend through additional apertures in the first cover member to secure the first cover member to the case.

79. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 76, wherein the first cover member and another cover member extend over at least a portion of the crystal.

80. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 76, wherein the first cover member and another cover member extend over opposite sides of the crystal, the timing element being visible between the first cover member and the another cover member.

81. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 75, wherein the first cover member is formed of a metal material and the first extension element is formed of a polymer material.

82. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 75, wherein the connecting springbar and the joining springbar each include a tubular member and a pair of depressible end portions.

83. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 75, wherein the band includes a plurality of links that are substantially identical to the first link and the second link, and a first portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a first band portion, and a second portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a second band portion, the first band

portion and the second band portion each including an end that is configured to join with the case.

84. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 83, wherein a clasp joins an end of the first band portion with an end of the second band portion.

85. (Previously Presented) A timepiece configured to be worn on a wrist of a wearer, the timepiece comprising a case, a timing element positioned within the case, and a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band having a first link and a second link joined together:

the first link including:

- a first extension element defining a first connecting channel and a separate first joining channel, the first extension element having a outward-facing surface and an opposite wrist-facing surface, the wrist-facing surface being positioned to face the wrist,

- a first cover member positioned adjacent the outward-facing surface of the first extension element, the first cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first connecting channel, and the first cover member having a pair of first side portions that extend toward the wrist-facing surface, the first side portions defining first connecting apertures aligned with the first connecting channel and positioned adjacent ends of the first connecting channel,

- a first connecting springbar extending through the first connecting channel and interfacing with the first connecting apertures to connect the first extension element to the first cover member, and

- a first joining springbar extending through the first joining channel to join the first extension element to the second link; and

the second link including:

- a second extension element defining a second connecting channel and a separate second joining channel,

- a second cover member extending over a portion of the second extension element that has the second connecting channel, the second cover member having a

pair of side portions that define second connecting apertures aligned with the second connecting channel and positioned adjacent ends of the second connecting channel, and the second cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first joining channel, and the side portions of the second cover member defining joining apertures aligned with the first joining channel, the first joining springbar extending into the joining apertures to join the first link to the second link,

a second connecting springbar extending through the second connecting channel and interfacing with the second connecting apertures to connect the second extension element to the second cover member, and

a second joining springbar extending through the second joining channel.

86. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 85, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material, and the first cover member extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

87. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 86, the connecting springbar extends through a connector area of the case and joins the band to the case, and the connecting springbar includes a pair of end portions that extend through additional apertures in the first cover member to secure the first cover member to the case.

88. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 86, wherein the first cover member and another cover member extend over opposite sides of the crystal, the timing element being visible between the first cover member and the another cover member.

89. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 85, wherein the band includes a plurality of links that are substantially identical to the first link and the second link, and a first portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a first band portion, and a second portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a second band portion, the first band portion and the second band portion each including an end that is configured to join with the case.

90. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 89, wherein a clasp joins an end of the first band portion with an end of the second band portion.

91. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 85, wherein the band includes a third link, and the second joining springbar joins the second link to the third link.

92. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 85, wherein the first connecting channel and the first joining channel are substantially parallel.

93. (Previously Presented) A timepiece configured to be worn on a wrist of a wearer, the timepiece comprising a case, a timing element positioned within the case, and a band extending from at least one side of the case, the band having a first link, a second link, and a third link joined in series:

the first link including:

- a first extension element defining a first connecting channel and a separate first joining channel, the first connecting channel being substantially parallel to the first joining channel, the first extension element having a outward-facing surface and an opposite wrist-facing surface, the wrist-facing surface being positioned to face the wrist,
- a first cover member positioned adjacent the outward-facing surface of the first extension element, the first cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first connecting channel, and the first cover member having a pair of first side portions that extend toward the wrist-facing surface, the first side portions defining first connecting apertures aligned with the first connecting channel and positioned adjacent ends of the first connecting channel,
- a first connecting springbar extending through the first connecting channel and interfacing with the first connecting apertures to connect the first extension element to the first cover member, and

a first joining springbar extending through the first joining channel to join the first extension element to the second link; and

the second link including:

a second extension element defining a second connecting channel and a separate second joining channel,

a second cover member extending over a portion of the second extension element that has the second connecting channel, the second cover member having a pair of side portions that define second connecting apertures aligned with the second connecting channel and positioned adjacent ends of the second connecting channel, and the second cover member extending over a portion of the first extension element that has the first joining channel, and the side portions of the second cover member defining joining apertures aligned with the first joining channel and positioned adjacent ends of the first joining channel, the first joining springbar extending into the joining apertures to join the first link to the second link,

a second connecting springbar extending through the second connecting channel and interfacing with the second connecting apertures to connect the second extension element to the second cover member, and

a second joining springbar extending through the second joining channel to join the second extension element to the third link,

wherein the third link is substantially identical to the first link and has a third extension element and a third cover member, the third cover member extending over a portion of the second extension element that has the second joining channel, the second joining springbar securing the second extension element to the third cover member to join the second link to the third link.

94. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 93, wherein a crystal extends over the timing element, the crystal being formed of an at least partially transparent material, and the first cover member extends over at least a portion of the crystal.

95. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 94, the connecting springbar extends through a connector area of the case and joins the band to the case, and the connecting springbar

includes a pair of end portions that extend through additional apertures in the first cover member to secure the first cover member to the case.

96. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 94, wherein the first cover member and another cover member extend over opposite sides of the crystal, the timing element being visible between the first cover member and the another cover member.

97. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 93, wherein the band includes a plurality of links that are substantially identical to the first link and the second link, and a first portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a first band portion, and a second portion of the plurality of links are joined together to form a second band portion, the first band portion and the second band portion each including an end that is configured to join with the case.

98. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 97, wherein a clasp joins an end of the first band portion with an end of the second band portion.

99. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 93, wherein the band includes a third link, and the second joining springbar joins the second link to the third link.

100. (Previously Presented) The timepiece recited in claim 99, wherein the first connecting channel and the first joining channel are substantially parallel.

101-110. (Cancelled)